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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION N	
10/645,946	08/22/2003	Michael Thomas Cooper	1038-2U	8247	
7590	10/15/2004	EXAMINER			
PATTERSON, MARIE D					
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
		3728			
DATE MAILED: 10/15/2004					

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/645,946	COOPER, MICHAEL THOMAS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marie Patterson	3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/2/04.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/22/03</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Goldstein (5381614).

Goldstein shows a pair of golfing shoes with indicia thereon comprising alignment stripes (shown in figures 7 and 8) and teaches the method of using such as a golfing aid as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldstein (5381614).

Goldstein shows a pair of shoes and method of using such substantially as claimed except inarguendo the exact orientation of the stripes/alignment markings. Goldstein specifically suggests orienting the alignment stripes differently according to the desired golfing stance to be taught/used (see column 5 lines 25-35, column 8 lines 56-column 9 line 4, and column 10, lines 19-31), figures 7 and 8 clearly show stripes (78A and B)

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which become aligned when the shoes are place "proximate" one another to guide the user to the appropriate stance. In arguendo the orientation and stance of figures 7 and 8 are not what is intended to be claimed, adjusting the angles of the stripes to conform the device to a different stance would have been obvious in view of the suggestions of Goldstein.

In reference to claims 3-8, Goldstein clearly suggests providing the stripes by any known means (see column 6 lines 9-24). It would have been obvious to use any known means for providing indicia/markings for making the stripes in the shoes of Goldstein to provide easily manufactured, durable, cost effective, and easily viewed alignment stripes.

In reference to claims 10 and 13, Goldstein clearly suggests providing multiple horizontal stripes (see column 7 lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to provide multiple horizontal stripes as taught by the alternative embodiment of Goldstein in the embodiment shown in figures 7 and 8 to provide a clearer reference site for the golfer.

1. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

Telephone inquiries regarding other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, "should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiners" M.P.E.P. 203.08. The Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (703) 872-9306 (**FORMAL FAXES ONLY**). Please identify Examiner Marie Patterson of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

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Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Marie Patterson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0069. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM Mon-Wed . Starting November 8th, 2004 the examiner's telephone number will change to (571) 272-4559.



Marie Patterson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728